

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

5 1. A computer program product comprising:
a case creation component for creating, at a creator system, a case by inserting item information and a distributor public key into a first block, wherein the distributor public key is at least one of a specific distributor or a randomly selected public key, and if the case is to include digital content, inserting digital object information and a digital object into a second
10 block;

a case information component for inserting, at a managing system coupled to the creator system over a network, case information and a managing system public key into the first block of the created case and signing the first block and second block, if present in the case;

15 a case prime component for inserting, at a distributor system coupled to the managing system over the network, distributor information, item information, item options, mutation rules and a passer public key into a third block in the case, and signing the third block;

a case receiving component for receiving at a station unit a case from at least one of the distributor system or managing system over the network;

20 a case passing and purchase component for at least one of retrieving a case from a first station unit to a second station unit or receiving a case at a second station unit from a first station unit and selecting the retrieved or received case, for inserting at the first station unit, item information, and a receiver public key into a fourth block in the case, and signing the fourth block, and creating a new case using the selected case as a root, wherein the new
25 case comprises a data section of consumer purchase data, and wherein the first and second station unit are disconnected from the network; and

a passing notification component for sending a notification from the station unit to the managing system over the network after the station unit has passed a case to another station unit and when the station unit has been recoupled to the managing system over the network.

30 2. The product of Claim 1, wherein the passing notification component comprises a commission component for applying a commission to a user account associated with a station unit that passes a case to another station unit, whereby the user associated with the receiving station unit subsequently purchases an item associated with the passed case,

wherein the passing station unit is associated with a user that was previously designated a sales associates.

3. The product of Claim 1, wherein the station units are associated with consumers.

4. The product of Claim 1, wherein the case creation component inserts link information, if a created case is to inherit properties from one or more other created cases.

5. The product of Claim 1, wherein the item information comprises encrypted distributor price information and distributor comments.

6. The product of Claim 1, wherein the item information identifies a physical item.

7. The product of Claim 1, wherein the mutation rules define how the case can be mutated.

8. The product of Claim 7, wherein the mutation rules comprise at least one of time limit or a number of passes limit.

9. The product of Claim 1, wherein the item options comprise selectable features of an associated product.

10. The product of Claim 1, wherein the case prime component further inserts dynamic data.

11. The product of Claim 10, wherein the dynamic data comprises distributor price and sales associate private key, if the passer public key was randomly selected.

12. The product of Claim 1, wherein the case prime component further inserts an object into the third block and sends the case to the managing system for signing.

13. The product of Claim 1, wherein the passing notification component sends all unprocessed cases to the managing system.

14. The product of Claim 1, wherein the case information component automatically inserts the case information and the managing system public key.

15. The product of Claim 1, wherein the digital object comprises one or more of a digital recording of music, images, or video.

16. A commerce system comprising:
a plurality of retailer systems coupled to a network;
a plurality of manufacturer systems coupled to the network;
a plurality of access point systems coupled to the network;
a managing system coupled to the a plurality of retailer systems, manufacturer systems, and access point systems over the network, the managing system comprising:
memory configured to store member information, and
a processor coupled to the memory;
a plurality of station units, each station unit comprising:
memory;
a user interface;
a transmitter/receiver configured to control wireless data transmission and reception to and from other station units and wireless and hardwired data transmission and reception to and from one of the plurality of access points; and
a processor coupled to the memory, the user interface and the transmitter/receiver; and
a computer program product comprising:
a case creation component for creating, at one of the manufacturer systems a case by inserting item information and a retailer public key into a first block, wherein the retailer public key is at least one of a specific retailer or a randomly selected public key, and
if the case is to include digital content, inserting digital object information and a digital object into a second block;
a case information component for inserting at the managing system case information and a managing system public key into the first block of the created case and signing the first block and second block, if present in the case;

a case prime component for inserting at one of the retailer systems retailer information, item information, item options, mutation rules and a passer public key into a third block in the case, and signing the third block;

5 a case receiving component for receiving a case at one of the station units via one of the access point systems from at least one of the retailer system or managing system over the network;

10 a case passing and purchase component for at least one of retrieving a case from a first station unit to a second station unit or receiving a case at a second station unit from a first station unit and selecting the retrieved or received case, for inserting at the first station unit, item information, and a receiver public key into a fourth block in the case, and signing the fourth block, and creating a new case using the selected case as a root, wherein the new case comprises a data section of consumer purchase data, and wherein the first and second station unit are disconnected from the network; and

15 a passing notification component for sending a notification from a station unit to the managing system over the network after the station unit has passed a case to another station unit and when the station unit has been recoupled to the managing system over the network.

20 17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the passing notification component comprises a commission component for applying a commission to a user account associated with a station unit that passes a case to another station unit, whereby the user associated with the receiving station unit subsequently purchases an item associated with the passed case, wherein the passing station unit is associated with a user that was previously designated a sales associates.

25 18. The system of Claim 16, wherein the station units are associated with consumers.

30 19. The system of Claim 16, wherein the case creation component inserts link information, if a created case is to inherit properties from one or more other created cases.

20. The system of Claim 16, wherein the item information comprises encrypted distributor price information and distributor comments.

21. The system of Claim 16, wherein the item information identifies a physical item.

22. The system of Claim 16, wherein the mutation rules define how the case can
5 be mutated.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the mutation rules comprise at least one of time limit or a number of passes limit.

10 24. The system of Claim 16, wherein the item options comprise selectable features of an associated product.

25. The system of Claim 16, wherein the case prime component further inserts dynamic data.
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26. The system of Claim 25, wherein the dynamic data comprises distributor price and sales associate private key, if the passer public key was randomly selected.

27. The system of Claim 16, wherein the case prime component further inserts an
20 object into the third block and sends the case to the managing system for signing.

28. The system of Claim 16, wherein the passing notification component sends all unprocessed cases to the managing system.

25 29. The system of Claim 16, wherein the case information component automatically inserts the case information and the managing system public key.

30. The system of Claim 16, wherein the digital object comprises one or more of a digital recording of music, images, or video.
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